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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

DANTON REPORT NO. 2

26 December 1948

TO:

FROM:

SUBJECT: Operational Trip 18 December - 26 December 1948 re: DANTON.

1. I arrived late in the evening of 18 December at the home of contact number one, Herr Garstatter (subject's real name), where I spent the night. Early Sunday morning he and I proceeded to a meeting with contact number two, Herr Gustav Strobel (subject's real name), at his farm approximately 25 miles away. After conferring with both contacts, I learned that no progress had been made toward my objective: a meeting with Danton. However, in probing the matter further, I learned the following: the two subjects had attempted to make contact with the one man who had access to Danton at all times, his adjutant, Herr Karl Radl (subject's real name).

2. The two subjects also furnished the following information on Radl:

a. Karl Radl, who uses the pseudonyms of Karl Kiedl and Friedrich Reither, has been Danton's adjutant for approximately five years and is the only German enjoying Danton's complete confidence.

b. While serving under Danton in the German Army, Radl was charged with the kidnapping of General Eisenhower in 1944. Hitler's order was to capture Eisenhower dead or alive. This order was secretly changed by Danton to "alive only" and Radl charged with its execution. Radl, who speaks excellent American, had already been stationed for three days in an American uniform as a guard in front of Eisenhower's headquarters when unforeseen developments made it imperative to abandon the plan. Details on this phase of Radl's war service are not available to me at this time.

3. The location of Radl's latest hiding place was known to my two contacts and I was able to persuade them to take a trip there Monday morning. I supplied Strobel's farmtruck with the necessary gasoline and early Monday morning the three of us set out for the 75-mile trip into the Bavarian hills. We contemplated reaching our destination in the early hours of the afternoon of Monday, 20 December, but extremely bad weather prevented this. We ran into a severe snowstorm and at 2,000 feet elevation our truck finally bogged down in a

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☐

(2)(G) Foreign Dissem ☐

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heavy snowdrift. Herr Strobel set out to get help and after a wait of seven hours, close to midnight, Strobel returned with a farmer from a village four miles away, who had rounded up eight horses in the neighborhood and came to our rescue. The horses pulled our truck the four miles to their village, where we spent the night. Early next morning, we set out again with a primitive snowplow, pulled by ten horses clearing the road in front of us. We reached our destination in the early afternoon of 21 December, only to learn that Radl had left his hideout a week previous. It was impossible to find out from the people in the neighborhood where he had gone to.

4. After consultation with the two contacts, it was decided to proceed to a town in the French Zone and insert a carefully worded message in the "Schwabisches Tagblatt" which has 17 different editions. The message was addressed to Karl R. and asked him to contact Herr Strobel at the earliest possible moment. We then returned to Strobel's farm.

5. I left the same night on the second lap of my trip, assuring my contacts that I would return within three days. I continued to Salzburg where I arrived in the early morning of 22 December and later that day reached Bad Hall in Upper Austria. There I met Baron Eugen von Pott, who has been known to me for many years and whom I was anxious to interest in working for us. Pott had been with Warner Bros. in Agram, Yugoslavia for fifteen years and returned there during the war as a prisoner repatriation officer. His knowledge of Yugoslavia, its people and languages, would make him valuable in our work. I stated objectives in very general terms and, without revealing my own connection with the U.S. Government, I tried to invite his cooperation on a rather personal basis. However, for reasons of health, he was reluctant to commit himself to cooperation on a full-time basis but offered to serve from time to time whenever his assistance would be required for specific tasks.

6. I returned to Salzburg on 23 December. Pursuing another lead there, I went to the office which clears all permits for visitors to Vienna in order to check on Ludwig Bommelman, American writer of German extraction. I had learned that Bommelman had been in Europe to gather material for a book on Banton and attempted to find out whether he was still in the European Command, suspecting that he had been in personal touch with Banton. After checking through several files and two telephone calls to the Combined Travel Board Office in Vienna, I learned that he had been in Austria, staying with his mother who lives in the famous Austrian ski-resort Zuers at Arlberg. However, he had gone back to the States about six weeks ago, and it is probable that he accomplished his task of getting all the necessary details from Banton to proceed with the writing of the book in the States.

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7. On the morning of 24 December I drove back to Strobel's place in the vicinity of Jls, where I arrived in the late afternoon. Shortly after my arrival an "express" letter was received from Karl Radl with his new address in Kaiserslautern. In the name of Strobel, I sent an urgent telegram asking Radl to telephone with charges reversed to Strobel's farm. I then settled down for a long wait. Up until midnight, 24 December, there was no reaction and the consensus of opinion was that the Christmas holidays made it unlikely he would receive any reaction before Monday or Tuesday, 27 or 28 December. In the course of the evening, however, I learned the following: Banton is living in Lindau, French Zone, on the Bodensee under full personal protection of General Keenig the French Commander. Banton, as well as Radl, is in the French Zone with the knowledge of the three top French commanders. Whether or not the French are actually using them for their purposes could not be determined. This information lacks a double-check but, in my opinion, it is fairly reliable.

8. On 25 December, having received no further news, I returned to my official station, after arranging with Strobel to get in touch with me immediately upon receiving news from Radl. I had expressed my willingness to meet with Radl at any point designated by him in Strobel's presence. Both my contacts again extracted my solemn word of honor to reveal nothing of what I had learned, or might learn, to anybody.

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